

MEDICINE SONGS OF GEORGE FARMER

By

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MEDICINE SONGS OF GEORGE FARMER¹

BY ALBERT B. REAGAN

WHILE doing research work among the Bois Fort Indians of Minnesota when I was Indian Agent at Nett Lake in that state one of my Indian policemen was a medicine man by the name of George Farmer Ne-ba-day-ke-shi-go-kay. He was a man of influence among his people. He also had a sufficient knowledge of his language, to be able to write down his thoughts in "Chippewa," though he had never been to any school so far as could be learned.

Once when at his place I accidentally discovered that he had a large note book. His little daughter gave it to me, and on opening it I saw writing in it, but in a language I did not recognize. After a good deal of persuasion, I succeeded in getting him to translate the words, when to my surprise I found that the writing consisted of medicine songs and medicinal receipts.²

These were written in Roman script but with phonetic values similar to French. Mr. Farmer let me copy his notes. The copy of his writing is in the first line and below this is the direct translation of each word that is translatable. The words "to-o," "ho-wo-he," "we-he," and many others are just thrown-in words and do not admit of being translated. Stars indicate places where there are lengthy pauses in the song and dashes where short pauses occur. The word written "mite" is the same as the "mide," found elsewhere.

¹ It should be noted that the orthography of the Indian words cited in this paper does not take into consideration phonetic niceties. Thus true lenes surd stops are not distinguished from sonant stops, nor are 'p, 't, 'k from p, t, k respectively. It seems likely that terminally sonant stops are aspirated but have a corresponding surd as a glide. True sonant stops do not exist after sibilants; and it is not likely that true surds exist after the consonants n, ñ, m. Possibly, to judge by the Gull Lake dialect, other peculiarities exist.—Truman Michelson.

² The medicinal receipts were published under the title "Some Chippewa Medicinal Receipts," in the *American Anthropologist* (N.S.), vol. 23, 1921, pp. 246-249.

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THE MEDICINE SONGS

Song 1: As Written in George Farmer's Notebook

KAGIWEIASH OGHGABEWI SI MI TEWIG

Bemi kweinan shi madagwanina
 Mi kana misiwe bemi kaweian
 Mi-si-we o tenag babigotenag
 Ni bawiog mi mi gi himag kashi ka wit
Mego nawag
 Ni ni wa ni bawida bebi nawag
Ni te mosabebi nawog
 Wi-da ni-nee nish inini wog o *nabiwog*
Edanabiiian
 Ano djimo a ni gi wi newa ni kan
Nani gedji no dji mo a qwi mo ki ia ne
 Ei nawemo iane anish mi te
 Nai ni ni wag nani hi teshg awag
 Ni-te-mo sa
 * * * * *
 Sagi si i tig wi ko tig
 Ialiaama wanai temasa ki to bwa
 Kane ki to nagane

Song 1: Kagiweiash Ochigabewisimitewig

(O. B. Johnson's Medicine Dance Song)

1. Be-mi-ka-we-i-nan shi-ma-da-gwa-ni-na
 I see a bear track *or* a track bear

Explanation: The above is sung by those who are walking around inside of the Grand Medicine Lodge, and they go through the motions of looking for the bear track, dancing around the hall in a half stooped-over position.

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|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Ni-ka-na | mi-si-we | be-mi-ka-we-ian |
| put presents on | center line in dance hall | big ducks track seen |
| Mi-si-we | o-te-nag | ba-bi-go-te-nag |
| big ducks | town | bad rocks |

Free translation: Put the presents [to the gods] on the center line of the dance hall, as we have seen the tracks of the great northern loon (big ducks). The big ducks [are soaring around]. They see the rocks all around the town.

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|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 3. Ni-ba-wi-og | ni-mi-gi-si-mag | kashi-ko-wit | me-go-na-wag |
| Somebody | my shells | today | somebody shoots |
| standing | | | |

Free translation: Somebody (some one of the medicine actors) standing up, "shoots" my medicine shells [for my benefit] today.

(It is believed that the konapamik shell, the sacred emblem of the Grand Medicine Lodge, is to be swallowed by the medicine man and then by the power of these shells (magic influence) he can "shoot" into the candidate's heart the mysterious power and influence contained in his medicine bag.)

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|------------|-------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| 4. Ni-niwa | nibawida | be-binawag | nitemosa | be-bi-na-wag |
| man | standing up | shoots the | partner friend | shoots shells |
| | | shells | | |

Free translation: A man standing up [in the lodge] "shoots" the shells [into the heart] of my partner; [he] "shoots" the shells. (It might also mean: A man, standing up, "shoots" the shells. My friend "shoots" the shells.)

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|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 5. Widaninee | nish ininiwag | ona-biwag | eda-na-bi-ie-an |
| have lots of | two men | sit down | bed |
| things | | | |

Free translation: Two men who have lots of things sit down on a bed or mat.

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|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 6. A-no-dji-mo-a | ni-gi-wi-ne-dwa | ni-kan |
| somebody's brother | shoot the shells, sick | partner |
| Na-ni-ge-dji | no-dji-mo-a | e-wi-mo-ki-ia-ne |
| somebody saw him on the | someone falls down on | somebody sings |
| other side of his brother | his side and gets up | |
| | again | |

Free translation: My partner whom you see on the other side of the sick brother "shoots" the shells into him (the candidate), as he falls down and gets up again, as somebody sings. (This stanza illustrates the action of the candidate, falling down when he is "shot" by the medicine man; the magic influence of the medicine bag being "shot" into his heart, and being too powerful for him to bear, he becomes unconscious. Such a scene as is here described can be seen at any medicine lodge dance. The person who falls down in a pretended unconsciousness is said to be sick.)

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|------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 7. E-gi-na-we-mo-ia-ne | an-ish-mi-te | |
| somebody sang | I guess dancing | |
| Wai-ni-ni-wag | na-ni-bitesh-gowag | ni-te-mo-a |
| man | dancing all walking | partner |
| | to town | |

Free translation: As somebody sings there is dancing; everybody dancing walks to town with my partner. *Or:* Somebody sings and there is dancing and everybody, dancing, walks to town with my partner (the person being initiated).

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|------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 8. Sagisjtigwikotig | Yahla(h) ah(h)ahmah | aniatemasa |
| somebody shoots shells | at wigwam | partner |
| Ki-t-bwa-ka-na | ki-to-na-ga-ne | |
| five | plates | |

Free translation: Somebody (the medicine man) "shoots" the shells [in a "medicine" way] at the wigwam of my partner (the person being initiated) and [he prepares] five plates [for the chief medicine men, i.e., five dishes of eatables].

Song 2: As Recorded in the Notebook

ENAGAMI GI NAG MI TE NAGAMON

Manito ino nanawagamig
 Na-na-wik-ish-go-ke manito *wiko*
 Biei-na bi-wake dji gwe-wa-ge
Ki-i-e-i-na bi-wake ms ki-ia-ne
 Na-na-wa-ga-mig we dji ms-ki-iane
 Na-na-wi-ki-shig we dji ms-ki-iane
 * * * * *
 Awena—*ke-wi-a-woge* ki hinan
 Awena—*ke-wi-a-woge* dji kwewoke
 Ni-kani wi te
Ni kani i ko o
 Dji-bi sasagadji we adaki mi to ke
Mada ni kishi ko mina to ke
 Nano deia ko we wake edashit
Mitewa wewigani magwa
 Wi a mwake dawi amwake
Megwe kamig nani bawigwen
 Kisig i nato dane ni kan *kiwidakamige*
Kana wabami te
 Waban ni bi tsne ni kan
 Baiawage badamwewi daman
 Kaogi na manito.

Song 2: E-na-ga-mi-gi-nag mi-te na-ga-mon

(Anahkahmegenung's Medicine Lodge Song)

1. Manito	ino	nanawagamig	nanawikishigoke	nimatowike
God	is	over all islands	over the heaven	[is] God (?)

Free translation: God is over the heaven and the earth. (It is hard to translate this. Na-na-mi-ga-mig is the "muskeg" (peat) in the swamps rising up out of the water, a sort of floating peat, the Indians believing that the land surface of the earth is a floating muskeg—"lots of islands on the surface of the big ocean." They base their belief on the fact that a piece of muskeg will tear loose from the bottom of the shallow lakes in that northern country and float around bearing upon it quite a bit of vegetation, even small trees. I have used such floating islands as concealments in the fall when hunting ducks on Nett Lake. I could hide among the rushes and sunflower like weeds and, putting my decoys in the clear water adjacent, could shoot ducks from that concealment as they settled on the water among them; but I had to be careful lest my island sink under my weight and leave me in the water. Na-na-wa-ga-mig also means "all over the country are big

islands," i.e., it is the earth (the middle of the universe). The Indians believe that the visible universe is composed of two plate-like parts; the sky is the upper "plate," the earth the lower "plate." They call the earth the lower middle of the universe, the sky the upper middle of the universe. They also believe that we live in the center of the upper (or land) part of the "earth-plate" and that the sky directly above us, "the visible sky," is the center of the "sky-plate." Nah-nah-we-ke-shig-oke is "the center of the "sky-plate.")

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|--|------------------------|---|
| 2. Bioina-bi-wake
the thunderbird | | dji-gwe-wa-ge
thunders |
| Ki-ie-i-na
look see | bi-wake
the islands | mo-ki-ia-ne
grow up [out of the water] |
| 3. Na-na-wa-ga-mig
from the middle of the sky | | we-dji-mo-ki-ia-ne
we come down |

Free translation: From the center of the earth, the land surface of the earth, the big island grows up and from the center of the earth-plate we come up. From the middle of the sky-plate in the starry vault we come down.

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|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4. A-we-na
who | ke-wi-a-wage
uses | ki-bi-nan
medicine shells? |
| A-we-na
who | ke-wi-a-wa-ge
uses | dji-kwe-wa-ke
the thunder? |
| 5. Ni-kane-we-te
the head walker in the dance. | | |

Ni-kani-i-ho o

(the head walker in the medicine dance, the leading man, the person who leads or heads the dancing column in the Grand Medicine Lodge dance ceremonies.)

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|---|--|--|
| 6. Dji-bi-sa-sa-ga-dji-we
the daylight | | a-da-ki-mi-to-ke
comes upon the earth |
| Ma-da-ni-kish-i-ko
sky | | mi-na-to-ke
God |

Free translation: The daylight in fringed rays comes upon the earth and when the sun gets a little higher the sky clears (i.e., darkness is gone, darkness goes when the sun gets brighter).

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 7. Na-no-de-ia-ko-we-wake
there not much | | wa-ke-e-da-shit
talking |
| Mi-te-wa
medicine men | | we-wi-ga-ni-ma-gwa
our brethren |

Free translation: There is not much talking. The medicine men are our friends or brethren." (The whole stanza seems to mean: Every one is too tired from dancing to talk much; but all the medicine men are our friends.)

8. Wi-am-wa-ke da-wi am-wa-ke
 eating dog medicine dance

Me-gwe-ka-mig na-ni-ba-wi-gwen
 all the people stand up between lots of houses

Free translation: All the people [are] standing up dancing all around the village eating dog as they dance. (This stanza is sung just before the dog-eating feast begins.)

9. Kishig i-na-to-da-ne ni-kan ki-wi-da-mi-ge
 sky asks brethren all round the horizon

Ka-na-wa-ba-mi-te
 look and see

Free translation: The medicine man points to the sky and says: The heavens ask the brethren [of our lodge] everywhere to look and see me, (i.e., to approve his medicine acts).

10. Wa-ban ni-bi-te-ne ni-kan
 morning brings friends

11. Ba-ia-wa-ge ba-da-me-we-wi-da-man
 thunderers coming

Kah-ge-na manito
 all gods

Free translation: The thunderers are always coming; all the gods [are always coming].

Song 3: As Recorded in the Notebook

O NA MAN ASH GWEN A GA MON

Ieewa wedahi ian ogimawano

Gwen abiian ahi gwen

Ni kan ni na to na mawa ni kan

Ka wi da mon me ni to wag

* * * * * * *

Ieewa ni to ko kagi na mi to gok we

Wigan magwakaki na *adi* *mig*

Awewedani na kamatweishit *kakina*

Mi *tewag* dji no dame wat

Awenen ni kan ni na to ma

Mite nikis manito ni kan *kiwabama*

Ia a magwaweto ti hi hishgokamig ni kan

Ka-damwe wi doke ti bishigokishik

* * * * * * *

Song 3: as sung by O-na-ma-nash-gwen-a-ga-mon

1. Iie-e-wa we-da-bi-ian o-gima-wa-no-gwen
 (no meaning) see the [bed] chiefs

A-bi-ian a-bi-gwen
see (stay at home) the bed

Free translation: The lazy chiefs are staying at home in their beds (referring to those who have not come to the dance).

2. Ni-kan ni-na-to-na-ma-wa ni-kan
partner something of medicine partner
found in your pocket

Ka-win-da-mon me-ni-to-wag
I ask gods

Free translation: My partner, you have something of medicine in your pocket. Partner (my friend or brother in the lodge) I ask the gods [about it for you].

* * * * *
3. Ia-e-wa ni-ko-to ka-gi-na mi-to-gok
(no meaning) I ask somebody all trees

We-wi-ga-ni ma-ga-wa ka-ki-na a-si-nig
belong to me all rock [belongs to me]

Free translation: I ask somebody (a god) if all the trees do not belong to me, if all the rocks belong to me. (The medicine man here means that everything of the universe belongs to those who belong to his order.)

4. A-we-nen-da-ne-na ka-ma-dwa-e-shit ka-ki-na
who's that talking all

Me-te-wag dji-ne-dah-no-wat
medicine understand

Free translation: Who's that talking? All medicine men understand.

5. Awenen nikan ninatoma mite mikis manito nikan
who is that partner coming medicine shells god partner

Ki-wa-ba-ma
sees

Free translation: My brother, who is coming with the medicine shells? My [partner] brother sees the god [coming with the shells].

6. Ia-a ma-gwa-we-to ti-bish-go-kam-ig ni-kan
(no meaning) loon duck center of earth partner

Ka-da-nwe-wi-dak ti-bish-go-ki-shig
hallooing half sky

Free translation: The great northern loon is hallooing to you, my brother (or partner), from the center of the land area of the universe (earth); from the half-sky (zenith) [he is hallooing].

Song 4: Sha-ga-nash-i-wash-gwena-ga-mon
(Canadian Medicine Song)

1. E-wi-wa-ba-mi-ia-ne wagidakamig koedjiwabamiiane
look and see me on top of the ground you see on

Free translation: Look, and see me! You see me on top of the ground (country or earth).

2. Ni-kan ki-wi-da-mon me-ni-to-wag
my brother I ask you gods

Ni-kan ki-wi-da-mon menitowag mishagwatog
my brother I ask you gods clear sky

Free translation: My brother, I ask you about the gods. My brother, I ask you about the gods of the clear sky.

3. A-ia-a keosabamigwen tibishgokeshig
(no meaning) where you were watch- middle of sky
ing me *or* I want you to see

Free translation: I want you to see in the middle of the sky.

4. Ki-me-te-win tibish-go-kamig
I give you medicine dance middle of the earth

Ki-me-te-wi-in ti-bish-ko-ki-shig
I give you medicine dance middle of the sky

Free translation: I give you a medicine dance in the middle of the land area of the earth; I give you a dance in the zenith above.

5. Na-ni-ba-a-ga-wi-da ish-gwa-teg
walking in the night in the door

Ki-ne-big a-ga-wi-da
snake walking in the night

6. Ka-ie-min i-ka-na-wi-ton mitewiwin manitowan
I, too am keeping medicine lodge gods

Free translation: I, too, am keeping a medicine lodge for the gods.

7. A-ia-go oiokima a-io-ko manito
it was said to chief it was said to me god
him sometimes sometimes see

Free translation: It was said to me: "Sometimes I see a chief; sometimes I see a god."

8. We-sa-wa-dji-wag ki-dji-ka-mi-we
it looks billows on Lake Superior

Anin en-a-dji-wag ki-dji-ka-mi-we
what is it waving in billows on Lake Superior

Free translation: It looks like billows on Lake Superior. What is it waving in billows on Lake Superior?

9. Ka-wi-ki-ka a-ia-dji-mi-te
getting old somebody tell

Ka-wi-ki-ka wa-ia-ba-ko-ke
pretty old I see

Free translation: Somebody tells me about somebody getting old. I see a pretty old man.

Song 5: Mite Nagamon (Medicine Dance Singing)

1. Be-mi-ka-we-i-na-ne shi-ma-da-gwa
see track bear

2. Shi-ma-da-gwa³ ni-to-ga-wi-a
bear I see track

Free translation: I see the bear track.

3. N-ga-na ni-wa-ni-no-se wi-ki-wa-mik
friend walking around [in] medicine lodge wigwam

Ish-gwa-teg ni-wa-ne-no-se
in the door of the lodge walking around

Free translation: They are walking around the brother (friend) who is being initiated in the medicine lodge wigwam. They are walking around him in the door of the lodge. (This is the scene of the dancing actors dancing around a novitiate.)

4. I-we-da-bi-ma ki-to-bwa-ka-ne
set (or lay) down pipe

I-wi-da-bi-dan ki-to-na-ga-ne
set down dishes of eatables (*or* dishes to eat in)

Free translation: Put down the pipe. Set down the dishes [in the place designated]. (The dishes are such as are used to contain certain eatables at the medicine dances. The scene indicated by this stanza is the preparatory ceremony to the feasting part of the medicine ceremonies.)

5. Ki-shi-gwi-bi-nan ki-wa-wi-da-mo-ne
sky I ask

Ki-dji-sa-ki-ma ki-wa-wi-da-mo-ne
sky I ask

Free translation: I make supplication to the sky. I make supplication to the sky.

* * * * * * * * *

6. Wa-ba-ma-ga-ne shimadagwanino inemadabit
see bear sit down

Free translation: A bear skin is exhibited, sitting down.

7. We-na-go-da-wi-ian ti-bish-go-kam-ig
set snare in sky

O-mi-te manito ti-bish-go-ki-shig me-ma-to-bit
medicine god middle sky sat down

³ The *g* in *gwa* has almost the sound of *q*.

Free translation: The medicine god [of the middle of the day] made a snare in the sky and sat down in the middle of the sky.

8. Ia-ni-ka-na	shi-ma-da-gwa	be-mo-set
my brother	bear	walking
Mi-ka-nag	mi-si-se	bi-mo-se
road	turkey	walking
		mi-ka-nag
		road

Free translation: My brother, the bear, is walking the road; the turkey is walking the road. (This probably refers to some drawing on a birch bark parchment.)

9. A-ni-da	e-bi-na-wi-iane	shi-ma-da-gwa
what you say	shoot me	bear
Ki-ma-ga-te-wi	te-na-ni-we	ki-wa-ki-te-na-ni-we
black	tongue	crooked

Free translation: What do you say? The black bear with the crooked tongue is going to "shoot" me [with the medicine shells]. (I have seen acts in the medicine lodge ceremonies in which a black bear skin with long tongue extending out of the mouth was pointed toward non-dancers by the dance-actors in the ceremonies as they passed by the same in their forward movement. And this stanza probably refers to such an act.)

10. Odji-ie-to-ian	wi-ia-i	ki-mi-sho-mi-si-nan
I set	(no meaning)	girl's grandfather's
O-ma-ki-sin	ani-ie-to-ian	ni-ka-da-mo-wan
moccasin	I set it	I am afraid

Free translation: I place the girl's moccasin [as you suggest]. I set it down, because I am afraid.

Song 6: Sa-gi-man-a-ki-ka-mon (Drum Singing)

1. Ka-wa-bi-kwe-hi-wat	ma-ni-tok
white haired	god
Ish-a-we-ni-mi-kok	ti-bish-ko-kamik
gives medicine by a kiss (touch-mouth process)	middle place
Ki-wi-da-ka-mik	
all around the earth	

Free translation: The white haired god, wherever he meets him in the middle of the earth space or all around the earth (everywhere), gives him medicinal powers (*literally* medicine) with a kiss.

2. Ish-a-we-ni-mi-kog	ni-kane	ti-bish-go-ka-mig
give him medicine	my friend	middle place
by a kiss		
Ke-kibwa-ganawat	niti-nemikog	kegina-kogane-wat
has pipe	full of tobacco	has dishes

Free translation: My friend, he who gave him medicine by a kiss in the middle of the earth place, has a pipe full of tobacco. He also has some dishes.

3. A-be-bi-na just now	bi-si-daw some one is talking (who's talking?)	ka-ia-gi-ki-to-wat that talking	
O-ko-we here	mi-te-wag medicine man	we-we-ni-sa a little close like whispering in the ear	bi-si-daw who's that
Ki-ia-gi-te-wat talking		ki-wi-da-ba-mig all country around	

Free translation: Who is that talking just now—a little close as if whispering in the medicine man's ear? Who is talking everywhere?

4. E-go-bi about ten sit down in a long circle	wa-hwen in a long circle	o-go-we here	manitog gods
Ki-ne-ia-bi-ka-ti-nag Mesabe Ranges (of mountains)			

Wegwebiioote in a long line	waiagwakidjikaming Lake Superior	mi-te-wag medicine men
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Free translation: About ten gods of the Mesabe Range are sitting down here in a circle; the medicine men of Lake Superior are sitting down here in a long line.

5. Ka-ie-min too, me	nina-ga-mo-i-go sing	ni-kan my brother
Ni-bi-shi-gwa-na-nig at long point at Leech Lake	e-bit living	ma-ni-to god
Ba-bi-gwa-wa-kag Leech Lake		ni-na me

Free translation: My brother, I, too, have sung at Long Point at Leech Lake (Onigum, Minnesota). The god of life also sang at Leech Lake with me.

6. Ka-bi-ma-ni-gwe-ko-mo-ian long hair (of the god, referring to the white choppy waves)

Mi-sha-wi-ki-dji-kam Lake Superior	I-ba-na-be (name of a god)
E-ko-ian is my name	ka-wa-da-ni-gwe-ko-mo- kaish-gwe-kameg ian long white hair hanging Lake Superior down the back

Free translation: I am the long white hair of Lake Superior (i.e., the white, choppy waves of Lake Superior). Ibanabe is my name. I am the long white hair hanging down the back of Lake Superior.

7. Mi-edo	ma-ni-tog	o-ke-we	wa-ia-ko-no-we-wat
one	god	here (this)	crooked tail
Miedo	ma-ni-tog	okowe	ke-mi-we-no-we-
one	god	here	wat long tail

Free translation: There is one manido here with a crooked tail; there is also one god here with a long tail.

8. A-ia-gwa-mi-na-ne	ka-gi-wi-da-mo-nan
you hold (like holding a piece of money)	I ask you

O-o-we	bi-wa-big	ni-ka-ne	o-na-man
this (here)	iron (trap)	my friend	iron trap

Ka-gi-wi-da-mo-nan
I ask you

Free translation: I ask you [about] this iron [trap], my friend. My friend, I ask you about this iron trap. [Does it hold things as] you hold a piece of money? (The medicine man had probably brought a trap back with him on his return from the journey this poem is describing.)

9. Ni-sho-ka-mig	e-da	ni-ga-bi-ti-ke
medicine wigwams	two	go in

Ni-sho-ka-mig	e-da	ni-ga-bi-ti-ke
medicine wigwams	two	go in

I-da-wi-na
both sides

o-wi-bi-ia-ne
[have] shells [suspended on both sides]

Ka-ga-wa-ia
porcupine quills

o-wi-bi-ia-ne
shells

Free translation: There are two going into the medicine wigwam. Two are going into the medicine wigwam. They have shells suspended on both sides, also porcupine [quill] shells.

Ba-si-gwi-wai-ka-nan	o-now
singing medicine dance	last two

Free translation: The last two are singing a medicine dance song.

Song 7: Madjishgog Mite Nagamon
(John Johnson's Medicine Song)

1. We-we-ni	no-da-wi-ia-ne	se-se-ga-dag
easy	sighing	spruce trees

Shi-ma-da-gwa-ni-no
bear singing

wa-ha-mi-ia-ne
see me

Free translation: Among the easy sighing spruce trees, the singing bear sees me.

2. Ia o-mi-gwa-ni-ia	shi-ma-da-gwa
feather	bear

O-mi-kwa-ni-to
feather, like a goose feather

Free translation: The bear has a feather, a feather like a goose feather.

3. A-ni-wa-ba-ton	ba-i-no-se-ia-ne	shi-ma-da-goke
I wait until daylight	walking	bear

4. Bi-mo-se-ian	shi-ma-da-gog	bi-i-no-si-ian
walking	bear	down this way

O-ki-ma-win	man-e-to-wa-ne
chief	god

Free translation: I wait until daylight for the walking bear. The principal bear god is walking down this way.

5. Kah-ie-min	agi	ni-wa-ba-dan
to me	all over	see

Ka-ie-min	ba-dja-gwin	a-ki-tin
to me	men's privates	woman's privates

6. Ma-ni-to-wi	od-ji-da-sa	o-ma-ga-gi
god	sit down	frog

Na-ma-da-bi	ki-ia-wik
sit down	shoulders (hips)

Free translation: The frog manido sits down (or sat down). He sat down on his folded hind feet (hips).

7. Mi-ka-na-ke	sha-we-ni-mi-wat	mi-te-wa-ke
my [real] friend	gives goods to me	medicine man

Ba-gi-dji-kan	sha-we-ni-mi-wat	mi-te-wa-ke
blankets, calico, etc.	gives to me	medicine man

Free translation: My friend (brother in the lodge), I give the goods to the medicine man. I give blankets, calico, etc., to the medicine man.

8. Ma-dji-io-te	ki-bi-nan	ki-ia-wik
walking with all	shells	shoulders
over breast		

A-ia-go-ki	ki-bi-nan	ki-ia-wik
pressing down weight	shells	shoulders

Free translation: He was walking with shells all over his breast and shoulders. The shells press[ed] down the shoulders with their weight.

9. Me-te-we-ia-dji-wag	ki-dji-ka-mi-we
hear waves, yellow floating	Lake Superior

Ka-wa-be-dji-wag we-sa-wa-dji-wag
hear waves hear the waves

Ki-dji-ka-mi-we
yellow floating Lake Superior

Free translation: Hear the yellow floating waves on Lake Superior.
(Repeated.)

Song 8: Mite Nagamon (Grand Medicine Song)

1. A-we-na-ia-ne shi-ko-si-wa-ian akimi-djanisa
 who is that whistle hard young ones (children)

Free translation: Who are the young children who are whistling hard?

2. Ni-ka-na a-to-da-ma-wa-da o-te-i-gwen
 my friend ask for (or give to me) your heart

We-mi-ki-sa-go ka-no-da-ma-wa-da
god shells give to me

Free translation: My friend, give me your heart; give me god shells.

3. O-dji-i-ko-ia-ne ni-mi-ki-sin
 talking about shells

O-so-mi-ko-ian ni-mi-ki-sin
talking about shells

Free translation: We are talking about the [medicine lodge] shells. We are talking about the shells.

4. A-i-gwa o-be-so-wag ki-bi-nan ma-da
 just now flying shells here
A-gig o-dji-so-wag ke-shig ko-ko-dji-se-wag
earth (ground) shells sky flying

Free translation: Just now the shells are flying (being "shot" by the medicine man—possibly only in imagination) here over the land surface of the earth. The shells (in the medicine man's imagination most likely) are flying through the sky. (This, of course, may be a poetic expression and simply refers to the using of the shells in the medicine dances.)

5. Wa-ia-bi-te o-ki-ma-mi-te-wa ba-ia-bi-te⁴
 looks good chief medicine man laughing

Free translation: It looks good to see the chief medicine man laughing. The medicine man is laughing "ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha."

6. O-to-gwen ki-bi-nan it-e-mo-sa
 sick shells close friend

Ka-ie-win ba-ba-mi-se
me to you flying

⁴ "Ba-ia-bi-te" is also pronounced "ba-yah-pit."

Free translation: My close friend, the shells to cure the sick are flying from me to you.

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| 7. Ka-ie-win | ba-ba-mi-se | ka-ie-win | da-ki-wi-se |
| me to you | flying | me to you | like shaking shells |

Free translation: They are flying from me to you. They are flying from me to you like shaking shells. (The shells are being "shot" from me to you and shake as they are "shot," or are in the act of being "shot.")

8. Bi-mi-shi-mo-dji-keg
carrying blankets in the final dancing act

Free translation: They are carrying blankets in the final dancing act.

9. (an added stanza).

A-ni-da-ia-ni-ne	we-mi-ti-gosh-i-gwag
he got it	the white man
O-mo-ti-da-ka-mi-wa	o-da-to-ba-ni-wa
calico	pails

Free translation: He has the white man's calico and pails [for presents].

Song 9: Mi-te Na-ga-mon (Grand Medicine Song)

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|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Sha-we-ni-mi-ia-ne | ni-kan |
| fondling as a mother does her child | my brother |
| Ka-ba-ki-te-nan | min-wa-ba-mi-gwen |
| raised up wigwam (or lifting up the flap
of the door) | look good, see me |
| Ni-kan | ka-ba-gi-te-nan |
| my friend | raised up wigwam door flap |

Free translation: When I raised up the door flap of the wigwam, my friend made love to me in the most loving way. As I raised up the door flap to the wigwam my sweetheart looked pleasant to me (i.e., bade me welcome by her pleasant looks).

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| 2. Ka-ie-nin | ko-da | a-mi-shi-mi-sa |
| too, me | I suppose | my close friend |
| Ki-da-wa-ba-ma | ka-ie-min | |
| see | me, too | |

Free translation: Me, too, my close friend, I am looking for you. Me, too, my friend, I am looking for you. (But the Indian puts it: "I suppose that I, too, my close friend, I am looking for you." This is the comer's statement on raising the door flap. The answer is: "I suppose that I, too, my friend, I am looking for you.")

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| 3. A-wi-ka-ne | shi-ma-da-gwa | o-ka-tig |
| sore bone | bear | leg |
| A-wi-ka-ne | shi-ma-da-gwa | o-to-mig |
| sore bone | bear | mouth |

Free translation: The bear has a sore bone in his leg. The bear [also] has a sore bone in his mouth.

4. O-to o-ton we-dji-shi-moke in-te-mo-sa
mouth mouth somebody killed my close friend
him

Free translation: His mouth! My friend, somebody hit him in the mouth.

5. We-dji-ki-kah-ki-bi-nan a-ia-dji-o-t
very old shells make young ones

We-dji-ki-ka-ki-bi-nan a-ia-dji-o-ki-bi-nan
very old shells make young shells

6. Ia-ni-ma-na shi-me-da-gwa he-mo-set
my friend (brother) bear walking

Ni-ka-nag mi-si-se bi-mo-set mi-ka-nag
road turkey walking road

Free translation: My partner, the bear is walking the road. A turkey is [also] walking the road.

7. Ia-we-na ni-ka-na shi-ma-da-gwa
who is that my friend bear

Bi-mo-sa mi-ki-nag ma-ne-to-we ni-ka-na
walking road god friend

Free translation: Who is that? It is my friend, the bear, walking the road. It is my friend, the ma-ne-to-way (god).

Song 10: Saki-ma-naga-mon (God-singing)

1. A-be-sa-mo ka-sha-we-ni-mi-ne
somebody wants to go home kissing young children

A-be-sa-mo ka-wi-sha-we-ni-mi-ne
somebody wants to go home kissing young children

Free translation: Somebody wants to go home and kiss her young children. (Repeated.)

2. Sha-bo-te-bi-wag o-ko-we
sit down somebody

Me-te-wi-wi-wat sha-bo-te-bi-wag
medicine man sit down

O-ko-we sa-ia-ki-ma-wi-wat
somebody see medicine man

Free translation: Somebody sees (or saw) the medicine man sitting down.

3. A-gwa-me-nan ki-ia-we ma-gi-sha
hold me tight I guess

Ni-ko-tig da--bi- mish-ka ki-ton
somebody pulls to one side mouth

Free translation: Hold me tight. I guess somebody pulled his mouth to one side by putting his finger in one side (corner) of it and pulling it out.

4. Ish-a-wa-ni-mig ba-bi-gwa-wa-kag ebi-gwen
like kissing him Lake of the Woods living

Man-i-to we-dji-wi-ko-dji-wag ebi-gwen manito
god source of river living god

Free translation: The Lake of the Woods is a living god; the source of the river in a lake (the intake of a river from a lake) is a living god. It is as if these were making love to him.

5. I-ta-wa-ka-mig
the surface of the top of the earth and the surface below the earth

Ni-no-da-ko-dag O-mi-shi-ma-gi-na-go
must be hearing me (a god's name)

Free translation: Omishimaginago, the god of the surface of the top of the earth and the surface below the earth, must be hearing me. (The Indians believe the earth to be flat or pancake-like in shape with an upper and lower surface. Some Indians also believe the earth to be composed of apartments, one above another, the floor of each apartment being like the surface of the world upon which we live.)

6. A-no-ka-ie nin kash-a-we-ni nin
too me kissing me

We-na-gwe-shig ka-sho-we-ni-mag
in the evening I am kissing you

Free translation: Me, too, you are kissing in the evening. I [too] am kissing you. (You are making love to me and I am making love to you.)

7. Ka-ia-ki-gi-to-ian da-she-mag
I am talking about him

A-we-si we-na-na-gwi-shig
animals tonight

Free translation: I am talking about him to the animals tonight.

8. Be-ba-mi-dji-wa-ge ni-kat-ed-a-mon
flooding everywhere river downward talking

Da-bi-kwe-gi-dji-wan
[as it] recedes

Free translation: The everywhere flooding river as it rises is talking as it recedes.

Song 11: Kaish Mite Nagamon (Kaish's Medicine Song)

1. Na-si-gan na-sigan mite wi-gan
going walking going walking medicine wigwam

Free translation: He is going walking, walking to the medicine lodge wigwam. (This is sung of some object on a medicine scroll. True, the song

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| 3. A-o-wi-ka-ne | Ba-ga-mo | ni-ka-ne |
| bone | (name of a god) | brother |

A-o-ka-te	wi-ka-ne
leg	bone

Free translation: This is the bone of Bagamo, brother, the leg bone.

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|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 4. Wi-a-ia-dji-mi-go-si-ian | na-go-da-mok |
| talking about to me | asks me |

Manitog	wa-bi-she	shi-wa	e-ko-ian
God	speaks	Martin	my name

Free translation: God speaks to me and asks me if Martin is my name.

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|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 5. We-go-ne ke-gwe-dji-i-na-ian-e | mi-te-wi-win |
| what is it I shall give | medicine dance |

Ma-ni-to-wan	ni-kan	ge-gwe-i-ian-e
god	my friend	shall be initiated

Free translation: What is it I shall give the medicine dance god, my friend, [if] I shall be initiated [into the lodge]? Or what is it I shall give the medicine dance god [as a present], my friend (or brother), if I try to be initiated [into the lodge]? (The inquirer here wishes to know how many presents he must put on the "medicine line" that is stretched through the center of the lodge so that he may be admitted into the degree which he seeks to take.)

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| 6. Ma-ni-to-wan | i-no-se-ia-ne | o-kwe-kan |
| god | walking | sweat house |

Ma-ni-to-wan	bi-mo-se-ian	a-gik
god	walking	ground

Free translation: The god is walking to the sweat house. The god is walking on the ground.

Song 13: Ma-djish-gag (Mahjishkung) Mite Nagamon
(John Johnson, Grand Medicine Song)

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|-----------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1. Be-mi-ka-we-ian-ne | shi-ma-da-gwa | ni-na |
| see track | bear | me |

Eshi-ga-we-i-nan	i-ko-dji	wa-go-sha
I see, look track	somewhere	fox

Free translation: I saw a bear track. I also looked and saw a fox track somewhere.

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| 2. Ni-kan-a | ba-bi-ko-te-nag | bi-mi-ga-we-ian |
| my friend | town | see track |

Free translation: I see a track in the town.

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| 3. Ni-ba-wiag | ni-mi-ki-si-nag | ka-shi-ko-wit |
| stand up | medicine shells (my) | today |

Me-ni-to-wit
god

Free translation: Stand up today with the medicine shells of the god[s].

4. I-ni-ni-wa ni-ba-wa-tog me-go-na-wag
man standing up shooting

I-te-mo-sa ni-ba-wi-tog me-ko-na-wag
my close friend stand up shooting

Free translation: The man is standing up "shooting" the shells. My close friend is standing up "shooting" the shells.

5. E-gi-no-we-mo-ia-ne anish mi-te-wi-ni-ne-wa
good sing I guess medicine

Na-ni-bi-tesh-ka-wa-ge i-te-mo-sa
walking around my close friend

Free translation: I guess my close friend, the medicine man, is singing good [while] walking around.

6. Me-da-ni-ne-e ni-sh i-ni-ni-wag
all kinds of goods two men

E-da-na-bi-ian i-te-mo-sag o-na-bi-wag
bedroom my friend sit down

Free translation: Two men with all kinds of goods sit down in the bedroom of my friend.

7. Man-i-to ba-ba-mi-te mi-ti-gog
God sees trees

O-ma-gwa wa-ba-mi-te
bear sees

Free translation: The Manito sees the trees. The bear sees them.

8. Be-mo-da-keg (This was not sung.)
talking

9. Wasa ni-bi-ti-na-wah ni-kan
little, far shooting my friend

I-te-mo-sa ni-kan
my close friend brother [in the lodge]

Free translation: From quite a distance my friend, my close friend, is "shooting" my brother [with the shells].

10. Be-shick a-wa-ke me-mi-to-wit ki-bi-nan
one [more] like gods shells

Free translation: There is one more like the god's shell (a shell of the gods).

11. Ma-totok na-ishi-na-gwo-ian she-ma-to-kog
sweating like me bear

Ni-wik a-ni-ie-to-ian ki-mi-sho-mi-si-nan
 four times putting something grandfather
 (that's what I put)

O-ni-gi-sin ni-ko-da-mo-win shi-ma-to-kwa
 moccasin I am afraid bear [shooting]

Song 14: Farmer John Sag-im-an-a-ka-mom.
 (Farmer John's Singing)

1. Weko-ne-ne ke-wa-ti-na-ma-wi-ian
 what is it you say? are you trying beating me?

Ki-da-se-ma ani-mash-an ke-wa-ti-na-mo-wi(n)
 look at tobacco first dog are you trying beating me?

Free translation: What is it you say? Are you trying to beat me? Look at the tobacco first, also the dog. Are you trying to beat me?

2. Ka-ba-ba-mi-dji-wag da-ba-ba-mi-dji-wan
 the flooding and receding river come back again

Free translation: The high waters in the receding river come back again.

3. Wa-ni-se wa-dji-wig ka-ba-bi-ti-ke-ian
 hill in hill he goes in

Mi-si-we wa-dji-wik ka-ba-bi-ti-ki-an
 all over in hill he goes in

Free translation: He goes into the hill. All over the hill he goes into it (something like ants going into their ant-hill nests).

4. Ma-no ni-kan ka-na-na-to-wi-go
 let it go my friend it will be all right to doctor a long time

Ma-no ni-kan wi-ko ga-na-nato mi-ko
 let it go my friend a long time to doctor a long time

Free translation: Let it go, my friend. It will be all right to doctor a long time. Let it go a long time, my friend, and [it will be necessary] to doctor a long time.

5. No-da-wa-ke mi-te-wa-ge
 I am hearing [some] medicine men

Ni-wa-ba-ma-ge dji-mi-te-wi-wat
 I am going to see the medicine dance

Free translation: I hear the medicine men. I am going to see the medicine dance.

6. Ni-wa-gi-shi-gwa-ne ni-na ani-dje-ni-shi-nabe⁵
 crooked tails (as of me is my Indian
 snakes)

⁵ Shi-nabe equals "my" or "ours." Shi-nabi ogema is "our agent."

Iie-dashi-mi-kwen ni-na nida-koti-nawa ni-na
talking me trying shooting shells, me

Free translation: Is my Indian talking to me crooked, like the crooked tail of a snake? I will try to "shoot" the medicine lodge shells.

Song 15: Mite Nagamon (Medicine Singing) by Andy Fields

1. Ni-ka-na bab-i-ko-te-nag bi-mi-ga we-iane
my friend lots of houses my tracks [around] town

Free translation: My friend, my tracks are all around the town. (I, as medicine man, visit all the houses.)

2. Ni-wi-wa-na-ne ni-io-gan be-mo-ce-ian-e
I try four nights walking

Free translation: I was taking medicine-exercises four nights.

3. No-shi-she-i-tok i-na-gi-nin mi-ta wi-ian
my son-in-law's look me medicine
child

Free translation: My son-in-law's child, look at [the effects of] my medicine [powers], or look at what I can do with my medicine.

4. We-we-ni mi-te-wi-iane
easy my medicine

Ni-mi-no-mi-te-be ko-sho-nin⁶
my good medicine me

Free translation: My medicine dance is easy. My medicine is good. Mine is good medicine.

5. Ia-ia-ni-ne na-na-we-ka-mik me-gwa
dodge from the "shot" way down somewhere in bear
shells the country

No-ni-da-wa na-gwa ni-wa-ba-ma
indications that some one bear see
is talking off in the thick
brush

Free translation: Down somewhere in the country the bear dodges the "shot" medicine shells. Somewhere in the thick brush (woods) the bear sees indications [that some one is there and] talking.

6. Ia-wi-i-i-ie Ka-gish-gi-si-tot
(no meaning) Cut Foot

I-gwane me-te-wi-ian
my brother my medicine dance

Free translation: Cut Foot, my brother, [that is] my medicine dance (singing).

⁶ *Koshonin* is "me," "my," "mine," usually "mine."

Song 16: Kay-gi-we-iash Sa-gi-ma-na-ga-mon
(O. M. Johnson's Singing)

1. Ka-bi-si-da-go-man a-king w-ie-na-bit
my sign is that some one [the] earth-land sitting down somewhere
is talking away off

Free translation: By my sign, some one, sitting down somewhere away off on the earth-land, is talking. I see mirrored in the water that some one is sitting down.

2. I-ie-shi-na-gi-wi-o-ian-e ki-wa-ba-ma
look at my clothes see
Ni-to-bwa-ka-ne i-ie-shi-na-gwi-o-iane
five smoking pipes look at my clothes

Free translation: Look at my clothes. Also see five smoking pipes. (Repeated.)

3. Ie-ishi-na-gwi- ni-kan⁷ o-ma-gok o-te-ig
oiane
look at my clothes my friend bear heart
Iie-shi-na-gwi-oiane ni-kan otonig
look at my clothes my friend bear's mouth

Free translation: Look at my clothes, my friend. Also look at the bear heart. Look at my clothes, my friend. Also look at the bear's mouth.

4. A-we-gwen ni-kish-win aia-na-we-da-mo-kwen
whose that fellow that's no good see
Ni-kan o-da-na-ki-ba-wa-dan ni-te-wi-win
my friend good sleep medicine dance

Free translation: Who is that fellow who is no good? See, my friend, he is having a good sleep at the medicine dance.

5. Winawa ni-ti-gok ni-ka-nag mi-to-win
this [I] ask you my friend medicine man

Free translation: I ask you this, my friend medicine man.

6. Winawa nitogok nikanag nagamon nitigok
this I ask you my friend singing I ask, me

Free translation: I ask you this, my friend. I ask you, Are you singing for me?

7. A-nin e-go-teg a-bi-i-ian
what you say how long wigwam living

⁷ One speaker would pronounce this word "ne-kan," another "ne-kahn," and another "ni-kan." The word was pronounced "ne-kahn" by the singer at the time the song was chanted to the author. The same is true of many other words in this article. In one song they may be pronounced one way, and in another quite differently though the spelling of the word is the same. The connecting sounds before and following a word also often modify the initial and terminal sound, or syllable.

Free translation: What do you say? How long have you been living in the wigwam?

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| 8. A-nin
what you say | e-go-we
how far do you halloo <i>or</i>
how far do you send
your talking? | ki-ia-we
all over |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|

Free translation: What do you say? How far can you send your voice?
(*Answer:*) Everywhere.

Song 17: Ho-ho-ho Mite Nagamon
(Po-po Martin's Medicine Song)

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|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Ia-gi-to
feathers (medicine man is carrying) | gwa-ni-da | mi-shi-ma-da-gwa
bear skin token |
| Ia-gi-te-gwa-ni-da
feathers (medicine man is carrying) | mi-shi-bi-shi
mountain lion | bi-mi-ka-we-da
track |

Free translation: The man with the feather[s] has a bear skin token. The man carrying the feathers [also] has a mountain lion token (foot).

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| 2. Ni-gwe-se
my son | o-ko-naia-sa
close | shi-ma-da-gwa
bear | o-wi-ia-wiag
my will (<i>or</i> wish) |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|

Free translation: My son, it is my wish that you keep close to the bear (i.e., the instructions in the bear ceremonies).

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| 3. A-wa-ke
try | win
this | me-ni-to-wit
god | ki-bi-na-ne
shells |
| A-wa-ke
try | win
these | shwa-ni-ia-wit
wampum-like
money | ki-bi-nan
shells |

Free translation: Try these, the shells of the gods. Try these; they are like money shells. (Try these shells of the gods. Try the wampum.)

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| 4. We-bi-da-ga-ni-ian
pocket-medicine bag | shi-ma-da-gwa
bear | o-nig
foot |
| We-shi-shi-gwa-ni-ian
little medicine drum | shi-ma-da-gwa
bear | te-e
heart |

Free translation: The little medicine bag is a bear's foot. The little medicine drum is the bear's heart. (The little medicine drum represents the bear's heart.)

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| 5. Wa-ba-ma-ga-ne
seen after a while | shi-ma-da-gwa
bear | kimin ine,
this me, | ma-da-bit
sit down |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|

Free translation: I will see the bear after a while. I am [now] sitting down here.

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| 6. Nina
me | we-to-ni-ian
mouth | shi-ma-da-gwa
bear |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|

Free translation: My mouth is like a bear's mouth.

7. Be-mi-ka-we-in-na shi-ma-da-gwa esho-ka-we-inan
see track bear see track

Free translation: I see a bear track. I see the track.

Song 18: E-na-ka-mi-ki-nag Sa-si-ma-na-ga-mon
(Andy Field's Medicine Singing)

1. Ni-bi-na-se-da-wag
somebody go see

Metwo-kagi-kito-wate osh-ki-na-wa-gig
talking middle of the earth

Free translation: I hear talking in the middle of the earth. Somebody go and see.

2. Ni-ma-mi-no-ki-sh-we ni-kan nigote ekitoian
good talking my friend after a while talking

Free translation: It is good talking. My friend will hear good talking after a while.

3. Wa-ia-se-ia- ni-bi-we we-tinag awesi manwa
ga-mig
pure clear water find animals bear

Free translation: The bear finds pure, clear water for the animals.

4. Ka-gi-dji-wa-nok wa-wa-ba-mi-ian
head of the river in the lake (the begin- sees me
ning of a river that has its
source in a lake)

Gish-a-we-ni-min we-dji-wa-ba-mi-ian
kisses and fondles me as a mother it sees me
does her babe

Mo-ki-dji-wa-nok wa-wa-ba-mi-ian
the spring (source of the river) sees me

5. We-da-ka-mig-o-ke ki-sho-we-ni-mi-ne
all over the country you make over me as a mother makes over her
babe

We-dji-wa-ba-mi-iane
you see me

Free translation: All over the country when you see me you make over me in a loving way. *Or better:* Everywhere you see me you make love to me.

6. Ne-ba-mi-shi-mo-a-gwa o-mishi-nia-gi-na-go-gwek
somebody dancing goddess of the big mountain

Free translation: There is somebody dancing. It is the goddess that lives in the big mountains.

7. Ka-iam-we oninamawishin minig a-wa-si-iag
 Kaiamwe gave *or* gives to me all animals

Free translation: Kaiamwe gave to me (or us) all the animals [for our use]. (Kaiamwe is the name of the god[dess] that lives in the big mountains toward the south from Nett Lake, evidently the Mesabe Range of mountains.)

8. Ne-ia-bi-ka-ti-nag ba-ba-na-ga-mo-ian
 Mesabe Range sings

I-ba-na-be e-go-ian
 zenith god (half-way sky god) my name

- Ne-ia-bi-ka-ti-nag ba-ba-na-ga-mo-ian ko-iam-we
 Mesabe Mountains sings zenith god

Free translation: The half-way god of the Mesabe Range sings my name. The half-way sky god of the Mesabe mountains sings my name.

Song 19: Enagamiginag Onomanashgwenagamon
 (Andy Field's Medicine Song)

1. Wi-si-gi-ma-ni-to-wi ni-sho-ki-ma-ni-to-wi
 we are your gods two times you are our gods

2. Ma-ne-do-wi-kam-ig ado-ta-mi-ke ni-ki-bi-ti-ke
 God's medicine house somebody tells me I go into [the medicine house]

Onamanetowigamig otodamike nikibitige
 god's medicine house somebody tells me I get into medicine dance

Free translation: Somebody tells me I shall go (or be admitted) into the medicine dance in the god's medicine house. Somebody tells me that I shall get into the god's medicine house in the dance [there], [for] two times [something has said to me], "We are your gods, [and] you are our gods."(?) (The above, includes 1 and 2.)

3. Be-ga-na-bi-te shi-ma-da-gwa-ni-no ma-ni-to-wi-gwen
 there sit; bear god

Free translation: There sits the bear god. (This the medicine man says as he points to a stuffed bear skin, or to the place in the heavens where the mythical bear god is supposed to dwell.)

4. Ka-gi-dji-o shi-ma-da-gwa wi-ki-wa-mig
 walking slowly because sore bear medicine lodge

A-ia-dji-o she-ma-da-gwa wi-ki-ma-mig
 changes his clothes bear medicine lodge

Free translation: The bear [god] is walking slowly in the medicine lodge because he is sore [from dancing so long]. The bear changes his clothes in the medicine lodge. (After this mock change, the bear actor dances rapidly on the return around the lodge.)

5. Wa-sa ni-to-ti-na-wa ki-ga-ni-nan bo-kot
 for I shoot friends on this side

Explanation: In this act each dancer points his medicine bag toward some looker-on and blows his breath over it toward him (or her) and this one falls down as if struck by some powerful shock from an unseen source. He then gets up and falls in line behind the man who "shot" him and proceeds to "shoot" others. When white people are present, the actor who is "shot" does not usually fall down, but he always dodges as if trying to escape a blow from something, and then falls in line in the dance immediately following the one who "shot" him.

6. Ka-gi-ke mi-nwe-we ni-mi-te-wa-ian
good music shaking music

Ka-gi-ke-mi-mwe-we ni-mi-te-wi-gan⁸
good music shaking music

Explanation: The actor is here playing his rattle-drum as he sings this song. The words which he repeats are: "Good music, shaking music."

7. Ke-go-in-oake ni-kan ni-go-dji-mi-te-we kawabamig
don't point at [my] partner some place he'll see you

Free translation: Do not point [the medicine bag] at my friend (partner), as he will see you. (Meaning the opposite, that he should point it at him and get him to join in the dance.)

8. A-ni-qi-i, bo-ni-ia-ne ni-so-ka-mig, bo-ne-iane, wikiwan
what would happen if I let alone three medicine lodges

Explanation: It is difficult to get any meaning out of this stanza. *Boni-iane* (*bone-iane*) is used by these Indians much as we use the word "let"; but the sentence, "What would happen if I let three medicine lodges?" has no meaning. It would seem to mean, "What would happen if I went away from the three medicine lodges?" The next stanza seems to answer this.

9. Eshi-na-gwi-oian abosh-ke shi-ma-da-gog
the looks of you if you don't care bear

Free translation: (This would seem to mean) If you do not care [more for yourself than that], the looks of you are just like those of a bear (*literally* a female bear).

Song 20: Mite na-ga-mon O-ka-be-ki-shig
(Medicine Song by All Day)

1. Ni-kan	o-wi-ia-wi-ia-ne	bo-sh-ke
partner	soul	if you care
Ki-ne-bi-kok	o-wa-ko-wat	ni-kan
snake	eggs	partner
		o-wi-ia-i-nane
		soul
Bo-sh-ke	mi-ti-gok	o-wa-ko-wat
if you care	trees	eggs

⁸In the *gi* and the *gan* it is hard to get an English equivalent. The *g* has a sound somewhere between our *g* and *k*.

Free translation: If you wish your spirit to increase in power take notice of the increase of a snake from its eggs. My partner, if you wish your soul to increase in power, take notice of the increase of the trees by their seed producing parts. (This stanza is very difficult to translate.)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---|------------------|
| 2. Gi-wa-ban | ina | eshi-ian | ikine-bi-kwa-ian |
| see | me | talking | snake [skin] |
| Ne-na-bo-wi-ian | | ne-wa-bi-shi-mok | |
| talk to me | | as it is placed in a certain position in
the middle of the dancing area on the
ground and a person dances upon it | |

Free translation: See me talking to the snake skin. Also see it talking to me as it is placed in a certain designated position in the middle of the dancing area on the ground and a dancer dances on it. (This represents an act in the dance, or, rather, this scene is acted out in the dance. The snake skin is exhibited by the medicine actor as he sings. In the closing part of the act he usually throws the skin on the ground and dances on it.)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3. A-io-wi-bi-mi-na | wa-ni-te-mo-sa |
| shells | brother |
| A-wi-ni-ni | ni-na-na-to-na-wa |
| the man is concealed | you shoot just where you think he is |

Free translation: My brother, the man is concealed. You "shoot" the medicine shells where you think he is.

- | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| 4. Ga-ga-wa-ia | o-wi-bi-mi-na | ki-ka-ni-nan |
| something like the quills
of a porcupine (but imag-
inary) | shoot[s] | brethren |
| 5. Ki-da-sha-we-ni-nom-ni-mon | | |
| 6. Ka-ka-ki | da-ma-ni-ti-wi | |
| the crow | is god | |
| Wi-na-ge | da-ma-ni-to-wi | |
| the turkey buzzard | is god | |

Song 21: The Ogemah Dance Song of Farmer John,
Sung by his Son, Ne-be-day-ke-shig-o-kay (George Farmer)

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. ni-ka-gi-na | ni-o-ka-na-gi-mi-kog | manitog (yay-hay'yah-
hay) |
| all people | select | gods |

Free translation: The gods select all people.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 2. Ni-ka-gi-na | ni-ki-o-na-gi-mi-kog |
| all people | select |
| Manitog | ki-wi-da-gi-shig-oge |
| gods | all around the sky |

Free translation: The gods select every one all around the horizon.

E-ie-i-na-bit (no meaning)		yay-hay-yay-hay (no meaning)
3. Mi-si-we-ma-ni-tok all round, gods everywhere	ni-sha-we-ni-mi-kog they love me	Yay-hay-yay-hay
Ka-gi-na all	man-i-tog the gods	ni-sha-we-ni-mi-kog love me

Free translation: The gods everywhere love me. (The term "nishaweni-mikog" equals "affection extending to fondling and kissing as a mother does her babe.")

4. Ka-ba-bi-dji-no-wag wind is coming	ki-shi-ke sky	mi-si-we all over
Ki-shi-goge sky	ga-wa-odji-noweg wind is coming	way-hay-way-hay

Free translation: The wind is coming from all over the sky; the wind is coming from the sky.

5. Me-twe-nana-go-mi-to is talking to me	awasikishigoge other side of sky	e-bi-gwen somebody
Manito god	yay-hay yay-hay (no meaning)	

Free translation: Some god is talking to me from the other side of the sky.

6. Ka-da-da-bi- noweg coming pretty quickly	kishike sky	notin wind	(yay-hay-yay-hay)
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Free translation: In a few minutes the wind will be coming from the sky.

7. Ni-bi-wa-ba-dan we come to see		e-dah-nah-gi-ia-ban where I used to live
Mi-ki-nin-oma that is where	agig on earth	oda-na-gi-ia-ban where I used to live

Free translation: We come to see where I used to live; and there on earth that is where I used to live. (This is what the medicine god is saying to the medicine man.)

As actually sung the above, was arranged as follows:

1. Ni-ka-gi-na ni-o-ka-na-gi-mi-kog manitog, yay-hay-yay-hay.
2. Mi-si-we ma-ni-tok ni-sha-we-ni-mi-kog ka-gi-na man-i-tok nisha-we-ni-mi-kog, yay-hay-yay-hay.
3. Me-dwe-na-na-go-mi-te a-wa-si-ki-go-ge o-bi-gwen manito, yay-hay-yay-hay.

4. Ni-bi-wa-ba-dan e-da-na-gi-ia-ban mi-ki-nin-o-ma a-gig e-da-na-gi-ia-ban, yay-hay-yay-hay.

5. Ni-ka-gi-na ni-ki-o-na-gi-mi-gog man-i-tog ki-wi-da-gi-shig oge e-ei-i-na-bit, yay-hay-yay-hay.

(And so on.)

Song 22: Kinebigwashgwenagamon
or Snake Song

1. Ish-go-te-wa-ne ni-ia-we
fire inside me (*or just me*)

2. Shi-shi-gwen-wa-ne ni-ia-we
soul inside me (*or just me*)

Free translation: There is fire within me. My soul [is] within me.

3. Ni-ia-we wa-ba-dan
me look, see

Free translation: Look at me and see.

4. Ni-ka-nag ni-wi-to-ka-wa-ke ka-gi-na
all

Ni-te-wa-ke ni-wi-to-ba-nag
medicine men eating

5. Da-o-na-gi-shi-ne ki-mi-sho-mi-si-nan
somebody swoons my mother's father

O-to-bwa-ga-na-ne da-ona-gi-sin oto-na-ga-ne
five smoking some put down dishes five

Explanation: In this act the novitiate is "overcome" by the strong medicine "shot" into his person from the medicine bags, the same entering his heart, and he falls in a swoon. His mother's father (or some other relative) then comes and lifts him up and he is prayed over. The five leading medicine men then take a smoke and the five plates of soup are set out for them.

6. Wa-na-ni-ka-na e-ti-ia-ne-i
partner not sick

Explanation: The novitiate is now no longer sick. He is now past the pretended sick stage in the performance.

7. Ki-wi a-ia-dji-mi-go mi-ka-ne
somebody is talking [to] my partner

Ki-wi-wa-wa-ban-ni-go ni-ka-ne
somebody sees [my] partner

Free translation: Some medicine man is talking to the novitiate. Some one is also paying attention to him so that he will learn the lodge ceremonies properly.

8. Ni-ia-a-dji-mi-go ni-ga-ne ni-gi-ne-bi-gwa-ian
somebody takes [to] partner snake skin medicine bag

Na-no-te-a-go-wet ni-ka-ne
not much talking [to] partner

Free translation: Somebody takes the ceremonial snake skin medicine bag and presents it to the novitiate; he, however, talks but little to the novitiate.

9. Ka-bi-ni-dji-wa-no-kwen ki-ni-bin
[like] running water

10. Win-sa-ka-ne-we-na ma-ga-te-shi-shi
somebody takes black snake's tail

Kwe-wa wi-sa-ga-bi-te-na-wi
teeth somebody takes

Free translation: Somebody takes the skin [of the black snake] by the tail; and somebody [takes it by] the teeth [in the performance].

11. Ia-a-wi shi-shi-gwe-wa o-ni-dje-ni-san
? big snake little snakes (eggs)

Ni-ki-ga-da-me-shi-ma
inside

Explanation: In this act the medicine actor exhibits a big snake skin as he offers up a prayer in behalf of the novitiate, which means: "May your offspring increase upon the earth as the snake's does, and may you have power, both charm and cunning, as the black snake has."

Song 23: By Tom Farmer—Wabeno Wagamon (Wabeno Song)

Each of the following parts is sung over from two to ten times:

1. In-ni-gwan-ni-sa ka-no-da-we wi-i-wi-wi
my brother-in-law hears me (no meaning)

In-ni-gwa-ni-sa ka-no-ba-min wi-i-wi-i
my brother-in-law sees me (no meaning)

2. Be-ba-mi-dje-wak ki-dji-ga-mi-we
floating ocean

Be-ba-mi-bo-got ki-dji-mi-ki-nag
floating turtle
* * * * * * * * * *

3. A-ia-a gi-dah-i-sa-ga-dji-we
coming hill

A-ia-a gi-dah-i-sa-ga-dji-we
coming hill
* * * * * * * * * *

4. O-na-ma in-dah-wah-aish-gwe- mi-ki-oti-na
? ga-mi-gag the land
I got [it] the edge [of]

5. Io-o gi-dji i-shgote io-o madji ishgote
? big fire ? bad fire

6. O-na-to-ne-wag					a-do-ne-wag				
shooting I am					looking, I am				
7. Wa-sa	wa-sa				in-da-na-to-ma-a	we-si			
far	far				want them to come	animals			
Ke-ka-me-wa-go-ka-net	be-sho				be-sho				
with long legs	a little way				a little way				
Ni-do-o-to-ma	me-got-te-wi-sit				aw-e-si				
packing	black				animals				
• 8. O-dji-da	o-dji-da				ni-mi-ga-wa	a-we-si			
I can	I can				find	animals			
	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Explanation: The parts of the song are explained as follows:

1. "My brother-in-law (the daylight) hears me. My brother-in-law (the daylight) sees me." The medicine men imagine that Daylight is a person and is listening to their supplications.

2. "Floating ocean" means the water that surrounds the land; "floating turtle" means the land surface of the earth. The waters of the earth are believed to be flowing about on the upper side of the "earth-plate" mentioned above (see p. 336), and in this great sea is the land surface of the earth floating about like a huge turtle's back sticking above the water. The stanza means: "I see the floating ocean. I see the floating turtle" (that is, the land surface of the earth). The medicine man sees this in his mind's eye, in his imagination as he delves in song. These also hear him in his supplications, he believes.

3. "Coming hill, coming hill." This means that somebody (a manido) is coming up the hill.

4. "I use [it] the edge of the land, bad medicine" or, "bad medicine, I use it, edge of the land." A long time ago the Indians had a bad medicine man and bad medicine; and the medicine man is singing to keep this medicine man and his medicine off the edge of the earth. Freely rendered it would be "I use this (his medicine) to keep the bad medicine man and his medicine off of the edge of the earth."

5. "Big fire; bad fire." This means: "I see a big fire. I see a bad fire." The medicine man here refers to the blazing comet or meteor that crosses the sky. He may have seen the actual comet, or it may have been only a product of his imagination, but with the Indian, as with many white people, a comet is an omen of evil, and the Indian used "medicine" to keep it from harming the earth.

6. "I am shouting. I am looking." Here the medicine man is shouting and hallooing and looking to get the attention of the Wabeno manido (the god of the morning). He acts this out just like a person looking for some one who is lost.

7. "Far, far, want them to come, animals with long legs, a little way, packing black animals." Freely translated this is: "I want some [spiritual] animals to come from a long way off. [I want them also to be] black animals with packs on their backs." This is the prayer the medicine man is repeating

to his manido after he has found him (in the 6th stanza). In the next stanza he finds the animals sought.

8. "I can, I can find black animals, black animals." That is, "I am able to find, I tell [you people], I am able to find the animals, the pack animals [I prayed for]." The pack animals are the pack animals of the manido and are bringing presents to the people, trade articles, plenty of fish, plenty of serial crops and berries, plenty of fur, plenty of game, and increase of the human family.

Song 24: By J. K. Redbird

Ya-hay- ah-a-hay ya-hay ah-a-hay ya-hay ah-a-hay
 We are to have a dance for the visitors that come. (Repeat.)
 Ay-hyah-ay ay-hyah-ay ay-hyah-ay yah-ay hay-ah ay-yah-hay
 Ay-he-yah ay-yah-hah ay-yah-hah ay-yah-hay. (Repeat.)
 Ay-hah ah he-yah hay hay ah-oh
 Yah-hah ah he-yah hay-hay-ah-oh (Repeat four times.)
 Yay-yah ay-hah hay yoh hay-hay-o.

Song 25: O-ka-be-ke-shig mi-te-nag-a-mon

(All Day's (Singing) Medicine Song)

1. Bi-da-sa-mo-se ma-ne-to-wi-da o-da-sa-mo-se
 somebody seen coming god like coming down here

Free translation: There is seen coming somebody god-like in appearance. This somebody is coming here.

2. Bas-to-se-ian ni-kan
 me-see coming friend

We-dji-mo-ka-age man-e-to wi-ka-mi-gok
 sun [coming up] god's wigwam⁹

Free translation: My friend, I see the sun coming up over the wigwam of the manido.

3. Wi-na ni-ga-na be-ma-o-ian me-te-wig-a-na
 my friend try medicine wigwam

Free translation: My brother (friend), try to join the medicine lodge.

4. Ka-wa-ba-min ke-bi-i-ni-go-ne-ia-ne
 see you like the light coming

I-to-nik i-to-nik
 mouth mouth

Free translation: I see you as I would see a light coming from your mouth. (Not very clear but seems to mean, "I see you as distinctly as I would see a light through a window.")

5. Shi-ma-da-gwa dji-mi-mo-si-an
 bear walking

⁹ God's wigwam (wigwam of the manido *also* medicine lodge).

lodge or Grand Medicine Lodge (Society), so that the reader will get a clear idea of the meaning of the above songs.

THE GRAND MEDICINE LODGE SOCIETY (MITAWIT,
MIDEWI, OR MIDEWIWIN)

The actors in this Grand Medicine order are mystery men (*mide*) or medicine men. Their profession is incantation, exorcism of demons, and the administration of shamanistic or magic remedies.

As is indicated in the name, the order is an organized society. It is graded into four separate and distinct common degrees, and at Nett Lake four special degrees have been added, making eight in all. Both sexes are admitted to it. Admission to membership in the degrees is considered of great importance and consequently is difficult and is preceded and followed by elaborate ceremonies. As a rule, a male candidate is one who has been selected for that distinction by the presiding medicine man at the "giving a name" or birth ceremonies of that respective person, the medicine man then assuming the office of god-father for the child. From that date on the parents of the boy gather presents to defray the expenses of his preliminary instruction by a selected medicine man when he reaches the age of puberty, to pay for the feasts given to all who attend the initiation ceremonies, and to furnish the required presents to the medicine men on that occasion.

Obtaining a degree often involves a candidate hopelessly in debt. Should he fail to liquidate the same, his relatives are expected to assume the responsibility thus incurred. The writer has known Bois Fort Indians to live in a starving condition for years, so that a member of the family could take one of these degrees. One aged, indigent woman at Pelican Point (Orr, Minnesota), had saved (starved), it is said, for thirteen years so that she could take the fourth degree before she died, so great was her desire to become an acknowledged medicine woman.

In this society, as maintained at Nett Lake, there are preserved the traditions relating to cosmogony and the genesis of mankind.

It also teaches that an anthropomorphic deity appeared on earth in the long ago and interceded between Che-manido (Kitshi

Manido) and the Indians. He taught the latter the means where-with they might provide themselves with the good things of earth and the power of warding off sickness and death. He gave to the Indians the various plants and instructed them in their uses.

This being is known by the name of Manabush (Manibusr *or* Minaboza). The account of his life on earth, what he did for men, and the rites and ceremonies alleged to have been prescribed by him are dramatically rehearsed at the initiation of a candidate into the society.

The society holds its services in a long, loose wigwam, called "medawegaun." Some of these are ten feet high, a hundred feet long, and twenty feet wide. The framework is complete, but the bark or canvas cover usually extends only half way up the sides, the top being open; sometimes the upper framework is also omitted. Along the center of this house, running the long way of the same within the framework, a pole, supported by posts, carries the presents the initiate is to give to the medicine chiefs.

When dancing, they proceed in a continuous row from left to right around the center pole and its presents, giving them the appearance of dancing in two rows. They all carry animal skin medicine bags as they dance, and as they pass the initiate they shake these over him or at him uttering hoarse sounds of various kinds. Also, when setting out from the eastern or starting post in the eastern end of the lodge, each one utters a hoarse "Ho, ho, ho," or other guttural expression as he shakes his medicine bag, holding it in both hands in front of him with its head pointing westward. Only members of the society are admitted, but any one who wishes may look on at the ceremony from without the hall.

Four of the medicine men act as initiating officers. These are provided with drums and rattles. One of these also has a kona-pamik (or cowry) shell (*Cyprae moneta*), the sacred emblem of the Metawit (medicine lodge order), and as he shakes the rattle and sings in a guttural voice he runs the lodge-dance course around the center pole, followed by the other medicine men. As they thus proceed they pass the novitiate who is seated on a new mat so as to face the center pole of the lodge. One after the other dances

about him (the novitiate) in turn, singing and gesticulating the initiation songs. As a final act they "shoot" him with the sacred konapamik shells, pretending to blow them into his head or breast, whereat he falls as if dead and lies in an apparently lifeless stupor. Quickly the medicine fraternity gather around him, manipulate and rub him with the medicine bags and pray and utter incantations over him till he "recovers," after which he spits a sacred shell from his mouth, pretending it is the one with which the medicine man had "shot" (or pretended to "shoot") him; but which he had previously concealed for the act in his mouth. As soon as he has spit up the shell, he sits upright and later, rising, is given a medicine bag as his lodge badge. This concludes the essentials of the ceremony.

The distribution of the presents follows this act.

The Nett Lake Indians also have a ghost society, which is a variation of the Grand Medicine Lodge, the ceremony being to all appearances about the same as that of the Grand Medicine Lodge proper.

Should any person, who has been set apart by the medicine priest to be dedicated to the Medicine lodge, die before the time set for the initiation, provided he is an adult, the relatives announce the fact to the chief medicine men at a specially called meeting (feast) at the lodge of one of the mourners. After the proper preparation thereafter, the chief mourner is initiated into the society as a substitute for the deceased, and the feast he gives is the "feast of the dead." The whole ceremony, including the feast, is designed to release the deceased's "shadow" from the "shades" and permit it to depart to the "land of mysteries in the happy hunting ground."

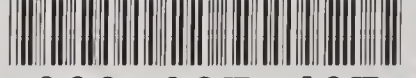
After the death of twenty-two infants from cholera infantum in the fall of 1913, we had a ghost ceremony almost weekly till I left the region the next year. Also, since the infantile mortality has increased, children are initiated into the society either in person or by proxy.

Another case of initiation by proxy is when a sick youth is brought to the ceremonial structure for restoration to health as a last resort, all the other and ordinary efforts of the shamans to

cure the patient with exorcisms and incantations having proved futile. Sessions of the society are also held for the sole purpose of curing the sick. This mode of doctoring is, in fact, becoming more popular every year.

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